

SOUTHERN CITIZEN.

BY BENJAMIN WAIM.

WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR, BUT TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND BE USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER?

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ASHBOROUGH, N. C. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1887.

[OF 88 AFTER 3 MONTHS]

An Appropriate Celebration.—We are glad to see that a spirit of charity is uppermost in the minds of those whose party has recently been victorious in New York. Instead of appropriating large sums to be wasted in illuminations, bonfires, the firing of cannon, and other noisy but useless ceremonies, the Whigs of Philadelphia have passed the following noble resolutions.—*Balt. Transcript.*

Resolved, That the Whigs of the city and county of Philadelphia will celebrate the recent glorious triumph of Whig principles in the state of New York by appropriating the sum which a Festival (on a liberal scale) would cost, to the poor of the city and county, without distinction of party.

Resolved, That as a Town Meeting of our Democratic Whig fellow-citizens has been called for this very purpose, we deem it expedient to leave all the necessary arrangements to be made by them, assuring them of our cordial co-operation in any measures they may devise.

PUBLIC SENTIMENTS.—The New York Journal of Commerce has compiled a table of the results of the Elections which have taken place this year in sixteen States, as compared with the last year's Elections.—They show a Whig gain of 52,414 votes; or in other words, where Van Buren had a majority in 1836 of 11,614 votes, the Whigs have now a majority of 40,800. To this must now be added New York with a Whig gain of upwards of 49,000, and Massachusetts with 10 or 15,000, and we shall have an aggregate gain in Eighteen States of 110,000 votes!

It is hoped that the Van Buren Journals will discover, in the course of the winter, that an election has been held in the great State of New York. Some of them are as silent as the grave on the subject, which leads to the supposition that they have not yet heard of it, or they surely would not keep their readers in ignorance.—*Fayl. Obsr.*

The Fall Term of the Superior Court for this County closed its Session on Saturday night last, about 11 o'clock; after a very laborious Session, having been engaged nearly every night during the week, until some hours after candle light, and still leaving a large number of causes, on both the State and Civil Dockets, untried. Two entire days of the term were occupied in the trial of a cause originally commenced in Moore, removed to Richmond, and thence to this county; involving the question of the genuineness of a note of hand for \$76 34, the costs in which case we understand to be probably near \$1000. Twelve witnesses were brought forward to prove the handwriting of the reputed maker of the note, and an equal number to dispute it. The cause was very ably conducted on both sides, the parties having secured an array of legal talent seldom equalled at our Bar. For the Plaintiff, (Banc.) Alexander Little, Esq. of Anson, and Wm. B. Wright and John Window, Esqrs. of this place. For the defendant, (Murchison) Hon. Robert Strange, J. D. Eccles and L. D. Henry, Esqrs. These gentlemen are well known at our Bar, except the first named, Mr. Little, whose closing argument we cannot pass over in silence. For familiarity with the cause, clear conception of its strong points and the forcible manner of presenting them to the Jury, we have seldom heard his argument equalled. The Jury were out but a few minutes before they brought in a verdict for his client, affirming the genuineness of the note. On a subsequent day, however, a new trial was moved for and granted by the Court so that it is not yet settled.

On Friday, a white man named David Watkins, and a free coloured man named Meredith Jeans, were tried for Burglary, and convicted of Grand Larceny. Mr. Solicitor Troy for the State Messrs. Henry and Window for Jeans, and Mr. Eccles for Watkins.

On Saturday, Willis Ransom, an old man, was tried for the Murder of his wife, and acquitted. He was defended by Messrs. Strange, Wright, and Reid.—*Fayl. Observer.*

Anecdote.—The late Dr. West having married a very tall lady, whose name was Experience, was asked his opinion of matrimony; to which he replied, that by long Ex-

perience, he found it a very comfortable thing.

The Weldon Bridge is completed.—The Locomotive entered Halifax on Thursday Evening. The Company's depots are now ready for the reception of produce from the Roanoke.

"Why are you so late at school?" inquired the pedagogue. "Oh, master, it was so slippery, that every time I took a step forward, I went two back." "Then how did you get here at all you little rascal?" "Why, sir, I turned round and went the other way!"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

We have reason to renew the expression of our devout gratitude to the Giver of all Good for his benign protection.—Our country presents, on every side, the evidence of that continued favor, under whose auspices it has gradually risen from a few feeble and dependent Colonies to a prosperous and powerful Confederacy. We are blessed with domestic tranquility, and all the elements of national prosperity. The pestilence which invading, for a time, some flourishing portions of the Union, interrupted the general prevalence of unusual health has happily been limited in extent, and arrested in its fatal career. The industry and prudence of our citizens are gradually relieving them from the pecuniary embarrassments under which portions of them have labored; judicious legislation, and the natural and boundless resources of our country, have afforded wise and timely aid to private enterprise and the activity always characteristic of our people has already, in a great degree, resumed its usual and profitable channels.

The condition of our foreign relations has not materially changed since the last annual message of my predecessor. We remain at peace with all nations; and no efforts on my part, consistent with the preservation of our rights and the honor of the country, shall be spared to maintain a position so consonant to our institutions. We have faithfully sustained the foreign policy with which the United States, under the guidance of the first President, took their stand in the family of nations—that of regulating their intercourse with other powers by the approved principles of private life; asking and according equal rights and equal privileges; rendering and demanding justice in all cases; advancing their own, and discussing the pretensions of others, with candor, directness, and sincerity; appealing at all times to reason, but never yielding to force, nor seeking to acquire anything for themselves by its exercise.

A rigid adherence to this policy has left this Government with scarcely a claim upon its justice, for injuries arising from acts committed by its authority. The most imposing and perplexing of those of the United States upon foreign Governments, for aggressions upon our citizens, were disposed of by my predecessor. Independently of the benefits conferred upon our citizens by restoring to the mercantile community so many millions of which they had been wrongfully divested, a great service was also rendered to this country by the satisfactory adjustment of so many ancient and irritating subjects of contention; and it reflects no ordinary credit on his successful administration of public affairs, that this great object was accomplished, without compromising, on any occasion, either the honour, or the peace of the nation.

With European powers no new subjects of difficulty have arisen; and those which were under discussion, although not terminated, do not present a more unfavorable aspect for the future preservation of that understanding, which it has ever been our desire to cultivate.

Of pending questions, the most important is that which exists with the Government of Great Britain, in respect to our northeastern boundary. It is with unfaded regret, that the people of the United States must look back upon the abortive efforts made by the executive, for a period of more than half a century, to determine, what no nation should suffer long to remain in dispute, the true line

which divides its possessions from other powers. The state of the settlements on the borders of the United States, and of the neighboring territory, was for a season such, that this perhaps was not indispensable to a faithful performance of the duties of the Federal Government. Times, have however changed this state of things; and brought about a condition of affairs, in which the true interest of both countries imperatively requires that this question should be put at rest. It is not to be disguised, that with full confidence, often expressed in the British Government to terminate it, we are apparently as far from its adjustment as we were at the time of signing the treaty of peace in 1783. The sole result of long pending negotiations, and a perplexing arbitration, appears to be a conviction, on its part, that a conventional line must be adopted, from the impossibility of ascertaining the true one according to the description contained in that treaty. Without coinciding in this opinion, which is not thought to be well founded, my predecessor gave the strongest proof of the earnest desire of the United States to terminate satisfactorily this dispute, by proposing the substitution of a conventional line, if the consent of the States interested in the question could be obtained. To this proposition, no answer has as yet been received. The attention of the British Government has, however, been urgently invited to the subject, and its reply cannot, I am confident, be much longer delayed. The general relation between Great Britain and the United States are of the most friendly character, and I am well satisfied of the sincere disposition of that Government to maintain them upon their present footing. This disposition has also, I am persuaded, become more general with the people of England than at any previous period. It is scarcely necessary to say to you, how cordially it is reciprocated by the Government and people of the United States. The conviction, which must be common to all, of the injurious consequences that result from keeping open this irritating question, and the certainty that its final settlement cannot be much longer deferred, will, I trust, lead to an early and satisfactory adjustment. At your last session, I laid before you the recent communications, between the two Governments, and between this Government and that of the state of Maine, in whose solicitude, concerning a subject in which she has so deep an interest, every portion of the Union participates.

The feelings produced by a temporary interruption of these harmonious relations between France and the United States, which are due as well to the recollections of former times as to a correct appreciation of existing interests, have been happily succeeded by a cordial disposition on both sides to cultivate an active friendship in their future intercourse. The opinion, undoubtedly correct, and steadily entertained by us, that the commercial relations at present existing between the two countries are susceptible of great and reciprocally beneficial improvements, is obviously gaining ground in France; and I am assured of the disposition of that Government to favor the accomplishment of such an object. This disposition shall be met in a proper spirit on our part. The few and comparatively unimportant questions that remain to be adjusted between us, can, I have no doubt, be settled with entire satisfaction, and without difficulty.

Between Russia and the United States, sentiments of good will continue to be mutually cherished. Our Minister recently accredited to that Court, has been received with a frankness and cordiality, and with evidences of respect for his country, which leave us no room to doubt the preservation in future of those amicable relations which have so long and so uninterruptedly existed between the two countries. On the few subjects under discussion between us, an early and just decision is confidently anticipated.

A correspondence has been opened with the Government of Austria, for the establishment of diplomatic relations, in conformity with the wishes of Congress, as indicated by an appropriation act of the session of 1837, and arrangements made for the purpose, which will be duly carried into effect.

With Austria and Prussia, and with the States of the German empire, now composing with the latter the Commercial League, our political relations are

of the most friendly character, whilst our commercial intercourse is gradually extending, with benefit to all who are engaged in it.

Civil war yet rages in Spain, producing intense suffering to its own people, and to other nations inconvenience and regret. Our citizens who have claims upon that country will be prejudiced for a time by the condition of this Treasury, the inevitable consequence of long-continued and exhausting internal wars.—The last instalment of the interest of the debt due under the convention with the Queen of Spain has not been paid; and similar failures may be expected to happen, until a portion of the resources of her kingdom can be devoted to the extinguishment of its foreign debt.

Having received satisfactory evidence that discriminating tonnage duties were charged upon the vessels of the United States in the ports of Portugal, a proclamation was issued on the 11 day of October last, in compliance with the act of May 26, 1832, declaring that fact; and the duties on foreign tonnage which were levied upon Portuguese vessels in the United States, previously to the passage of that act, are accordingly revived.

The act of July 4, 1836, suspending the discriminating duties upon the produce of Portugal imported into this country in Portuguese vessels, was passed upon the application of that Government, through its representative here, under the belief that no similar discrimination existed in Portugal to the prejudice of the United States. I regret to state that such duties are now exacted in that country upon the cargoes of American vessels; and as the act referred to vests no discretion in the Executive, it is for Congress to determine upon the expediency of further legislation on the subject. Against these discriminations, affecting the vessels of this country and their cargoes, reasonable remonstrance was made, and notice was given to the Portuguese Government that unless they should be discontinued, the adoption of countervailing measures on the part of the United States would become necessary; but the reply of that Government, received at the Department of State through our Charge d'Affairs at Lisbon, in the month of September last, afforded no ground to hope for the abandonment of a system so little in harmony with the treatment shown to the vessels of Portugal and their cargoes in the ports of this country, and so contrary to the expectations we had a right to entertain.

With Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Naples, and Belgium, a friendly intercourse has been uninterruptedly maintained.

With the Government of the Ottoman Porte and its dependencies on the coast of the Mediterranean, peace and good will are carefully cultivated, and have been fostered by such good officers as the relative distance and the condition of those countries would permit.

Our commerce with Greece is carried on under the laws of the two Governments, reciprocally beneficial to the navigating interests of both; and I have reason to look forward to the adoption of other measures which will be more extensively and permanently advantageous.

Copies of the treaties concluded with the Governments of Siam and Muscat are transmitted for the information of Congress, the ratifications having been received, and the treaties made public, since the close of the last annual session. Already have we reason to congratulate ourselves on the prospect of considerable commercial benefit; and we have, besides, received from the Sultan of Muscat prompt evidence of his desire to cultivate the most friendly feelings, by liberal acts towards one of our vessels, bestowed in a manner so striking as to require on our part a grateful acknowledgment.

Our commerce with the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico still labors under heavy restrictions, the continuance of which is a subject of regret. The only effect of an adherence to them will be to benefit the navigation of other countries, at the expense both of the United States and Spain.

The independent nations of this continent have, ever since they emerged from the continental state, experienced severe trials in their progress to the permanent establishment of liberal political institutions. Their unsettled condition not only interrupts their own ad-

vances to prosperity, but has often seriously injured the other powers of the world. The claims of our citizens upon Peru, Chili, Brazil, the Argentine Republic, the Governments formed out of the Republics of Colombia, and Mexico, are still pending, although many of them have been presented for examination more than twenty years. New Granada, Venezuela, and Ecuador, have recently formed a convention for the purpose of ascertaining and adjusting claims upon the Republic of Colombia, from which it is earnestly hoped our citizens will ere long receive full compensation for the injuries originally inflicted upon them, and the delay in affording it.

An advantageous treaty of commerce has been concluded by the United States with the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, which wants only the ratification of that Government. The progress of a subsequent negotiation for the settlement of claims upon Peru, has been unfavorably affected by the war between that power and Chili, and the Argentine Republic; and the same events is also likely to produce delays in the settlement of our demands on those powers.

The aggravating circumstances connected with our claims upon Mexico and a variety of events touching the honor and integrity of our Government, led my predecessor to make at the second session of the last Congress, a special recommendation of the course to be pursued to obtain a speedy and final satisfaction of the injuries complained of by this Government and by our citizens. He recommended a final demand of redress with a contingent authority to the Executive to make reprisals, if that demand should be made in vain. From the proceedings of Congress on that recommendation, it appeared that the opinion of the Legislature coincided with that of the Executive, that any mode of redress known to the law of nations might justifiably be used. It was obvious, too, that Congress believed with the President, that another demand should be made, in order to give undeniable and satisfactory proof of our desire to avoid extremities with a neighboring power; but that there was an indisposition to vest a discretionary authority in the Executive to take redress, should it unfortunately be either denied or unreasonably delayed by the Mexican Government. So soon as the necessary documents were prepared, after entering upon the duties of my office, a special messenger was sent to Mexico, to make a final demand of redress, with the documents required by the provisions of our treaty. The demand was made on the 20th of July last. The reply, which bears date the 29th of the same month, contains assurances of a desire, on the part of that Government, to give a prompt and explicit answer respecting each of the complaints, but that examination of them would necessarily be deliberate; that in this examination, it would be guided by the principles of public law and the obligation of treaties; that nothing should be left untried that might lead to the most speedy and equitable adjustment of our demands; and that its determination, in respect to each case, should be communicated through the Mexican Minister here.

Since that time, an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary has been accredited to this Government by that of the Mexican Republic. He brought with him assurances of a sincere desire that the pending differences between the two Governments in a manner satisfactory to both. He was received with reciprocal assurances; and a hope was entertained that his mission would lead to a speedy, satisfactory, and final adjustment of all existing subjects of complaint. A sincere believer in the wisdom of the pacific by which the United States have always been governed in their intercourse with foreign nations, it was my particular desire, from the proximity of the American Republic, and well known occurrences on our frontier, to be instrumental in obviating all existing difficulties with that Government, and in restoring to the intercourse between the two Republics, that liberal and friendly character by which they should always be distinguished. I regret, therefore, the more deeply to have found in the recent communications of that Government so little reason to hope that any future efforts of mine for the accomplishment of those desirable objects would be successful.

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